

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NOUAKC 01118 071159Z

13

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 OMB-01 /111 W

----- 124716

R 061710327MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5620

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 1118

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PORG UNGA KS MR

SUBJECT: KOREAN QUESTION AT UN: MAURITANIAN POSITION

REF: (A) NOUAKCHOTT 876, (B) NOUAKCHOTT 926, (C) NOUAKCHOTT 976

(D) RABAT 2106 (E) STATE 105601, (F) STATE 98185 (ALL NOTAL)

1. MISSION AGREES WHOLEHEARTEDLY THAT US SHOULD MOUNT SYSTEMATIC EFFORT TO EXPLOIT RIFT BETWEEN NORTH KOREA AND MAURITANIA, AND TURN DPRK'S PRESENT DISCOMFITURE TO OUR ADVANTAGE IN 31ST UNGA. TO BE MOST EFFECTIVE, US CAMPAIGN MUST RECOGNIZE AND REFLECT A NUMBER OF BASIC POLITICAL PROPOSITIONS: FIRST--WE MUST NOT LOSE SIGHT OF FACT THAT GIRM DID NOT RPT NOT BREAK DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH DPRK OR SEVER ALL TIES WITH ITS OLD AND CLOSE FRIEND KIM IL-SUNG. WHETHER GIRM CONSIDER DPRK RECOGNITION OF SDAR A "MAJOR REBUFF" OR NOT, GIRM STILL RECOGNIZES AND DOES BUSINESS WITH DPRK, AND THERE IS STILL A FUNCTIONING NORTH KOREAN EMBASSY IN NOUAKCHOTT WITH A RESIDENT CHARGE AND STAFF WHO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN DIPLOMATIC LIFE OF THIS CAPITAL CITY.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NOUAKC 01118 071159Z

SECOND--GIRM RELATIONSHIPS WITH DPRK AND ROK ARE NOT RPT NOT RECIPROCAL FUNCTION. WE MUST NOT ASSUME THAT ROK WILL AUTOMATICALLY RISE IN ESTIMATION OF GIRM THE PRECISE DISTANCE THAT DPRK HAS FALLEN.

THIRD--GIRM SEES ITSELF AS ACTIVE MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING OF THIRD WORCH, AND PRIDES ITSELF ON ITS NONALIGNED FOREIGN POLICY STANCE (HOWEVER ILLOGICAL THAT MAY BE IN KOREAN CASE). CONSEQUENTLY, GIRM WILL CONTINUE TO BE INFLUENCED BY ATTITUDES PREVAILING IN THIRD WORLD RE TWO KOREAS AND BY ACTIONS OR POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS OF RECOGNIZED LEADERS OF THAT GROUPING.

FOURTH--"PROGRESSIVE", SOCIALIST IMAGE OF OULD DADDAH REGIME HAS BEEN BADLY TARNISHED BY SAHARA-IMPOSED NEED TO BREAK WITH SOCIALIST ALGERIA AND ALLY ITSELF CLOSELY WITH TRADITIONAL, CONSERVATIVE MOROCCO AND OTHER STATES SUCH AS "COLONIALIST FRANCE" TO WHICH IT HAS TURNED FOR POLITICAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT AGAINST THE POLISARIO. THIS RIGHTWARD TREND HAS ALREADY BQN EXPLICITLY NOTED AND PUBLICLY CRITICIZED BY "YOUNGER GENERATION" (IN OUTLOOK IF NOT IN AGE) WHO HAVE WARNED AGAINST THREATENED REVIVAL OF DOMINANCE BY TRADITIONALISTS, AND HAVE APPEALED TO THEIR SOCIALIST BROTHERS IN ALGERIA TO RECOGNIZE THAT CONTINUED ALGERIAN/POLISARIO PRESSURE WILL ONLY FURTHER UNDERMINE MAURITANIAN SOCIALISM AND PUSH GIRM INTO PERMANENT ALLIANCES WITH ARCHCONSERVATIVES. IN FACE THIS DOMESTIC FERMENT, OULD DADDAH REGIME WILL NOT LIGHTLY DISCARD "PROGRESSIVE" FOREIGN POLICY STANCE WHICH COSTS IT VERY LITTLE; ODDS ARE EVEN GREATER AGAINST GIRM GOING STEP FURTHER AND OPTING FOR "IMPERIALIST" POSITION ON KOREAN QUESTION ESPECIALLY SINCE SUCH A SHIFT WOULD BRIN NO IMMEDIATE OR VISIBLE PROFIT TO MAURITANIA.

2. ALTHOUGH GIRM HAS FOR FIRST TIME GRANTED ENTRY VISA TO ROK DIPLOMAT AND SENIOR FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL RECEIVED ROK REPRESENTATIVE, THERE HAS BEEN NO INDICATION SO FAR OF ANY CHANGE IN GIRM POLICY ON KOREAN QUESTION. NOR HAVE WE AS YET DETECTED ANY

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NOUAKC 01118 071159Z

INDICATION THAT GIRM MAY STEP BACK FROM ITS PRO-KIM POSITION IN NEXT UNGA. EXPLANATCGN MAY BE OBVIOUS ONE: GIRM POLICYMAKERS ARE OTHERWISE OCCUPIED AND GA IS LONG WAY OFF. NEVERTHELESS, WE DOUBT THAT WHEN TIME COMES GIRM WILL UNDERGO PHILOSOPHICAL CHANGE AND DECIDE TO SWITCH FROM ACTIVE SUPPORT OF NORTH KOREA TO SUPPORT OF ROK. GIRM MAY, HOWEVER, DECIDE FOR

TACTICAL REASONS TO PROVIDE FURTHER PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION OF ITS CURRENT UNHAPPINESS WITH ITS OLD FRIEND, AND WITHDRAW ITS ACTIVE SUPPORT OF DPRK. FORTUNATELY FOR US, FORMALIZED VOTE-CASTING CONTEXT OF UNGA IMPOSES RECIPROCAL RELATIONSHIP IN WHICH TACTICALLY (ALTHOUGH NOT PHILOSOPHICALLY) ROK BENEFITS DIRECTLY FROM DPRK LOSS.

3. IN CALCULATING RESULTANT OF ABOVE FORCES AND INFLUENCES, MISSION BELIEVES REASONABLE, ATTAINABLE GOAL FOR US AND ROK RE GIRM UNGA KOREAN STANCE WOULD BE: TO PERSUADE GIRM (A) TO SHED ITS THIRD WORLD PRECONCEPTIONS AND TO EXAMINE KOREAN ISSUE ON ITS MERITS; (B) NOT TO SIGN UP AS CO-SPONSOR OF NORTH KOREAN RESOLUTION; AND (C) TO INSTRUCT ITS REPRESENTATIVES TO ABSENT THEMSELVES PHYSICALLY WHEN KOREAN ISSUE IS CONSIDERED IN COMMITTEE AND PLENARY. IF WE ARE ABLE TO MOVE MAURITANIANS ONE STEP FURTHER TO FORMAL ABSTENTION, THAT WILL HAVE TO BE SCORED AS WINDFALL PROFIT.

4. TO EXTENT THAT "HARD-SELL" APPROACH IS USED WITH GIRM, WE STRONGLY ENDORSE DEPARTMENT'S SUGGESTION (REF F) THAT IT BE MADE BY WEST GERMANS. US INVOLVEMENT AUTOMATICALLY STIRS UP RECOLLECTIONS OF TROOPS AND SPECIAL WEAPONS. GERMAN CHARGE HAS RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM BONN TO MAKE DEMARCHE ON KOREAN QUESTION. HE HAS STANDING REQUEST FOR MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER MOUKNASS WHICH WILL PROBABLY TAKE PLACE THIS WEEK. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR USG TO FOLLOWUP WITH ADDITIONAL HARD-SELL EFFORT. WE DO INTEND, HOWEVER, TO RAISE KOREAN ISSUE WITH MOOUKNASS IN CONTEXT OF DISCUSSIONS ON OTHER IMPORTANT SUBJECTS.

5. GIRM POLICY ON KOREAN QUESTION WAS CLEARLY NOT MADE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 NOUAKC 01118 071159Z

IN RABAT LAST YEAR. WE VERY MUCH DOUBT THAT GIRM POLICY ON KOREAN WILL BE MADE IN RABAT IN 1976, ALTHOUGH KING HASSAN'S VIEWS WILL BE LISTENED TO RESPECTFULLY AND ATTENTIVELY. TWO COUNTRIES HAVE TRADITIONALLY HAD DIFFERENT APPROACH TO ISSUE AND, ALTHOUGH GIRM "FREEZING" OF DPRK RELATIONS IS IMPORTANT NEW ELEMENT, WE BELIEVE MAURITANIA AND MOROCCO WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT POLICIES ON SUBJECT. THAT SAID, WE SEE NO HARM AND POSSIBLY SOME UTILITY IN ENCOURAGING MOROCCANS, SHOULD THEY BE WILLING, TO INTERCEDE SEVERAL MORE TIMES WITH GIRM ON BEHALF OF US/SOUTH KOREAN POSITION. HANDYSIDE

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